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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6547
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 9810
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 1773
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 3997
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1131
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1902
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 6722
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 7682
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5015
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0172
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 2508
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 3236
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 4426
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 1229
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 3609
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 9508
RHMCSST/FBI WASHDC PRIORITY
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 000494

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/25/2017

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: BOMB EXPLODES IN MARRIOTT HOTEL PARKING LOT

REF: LAHORE 61

Classified By: Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (U) On January 26 at approximately 1430, a bomb exploded at the back area of the Islamabad Marriott hotel. According to media reports an hour after the event, two people were killed, and seven injured (two critically so). Initial reports indicate that a suicide bomber detonated himself at the staff entrance of the Marriott hotel after a security guard refused to let him enter. The hotel security guard and the bomber are the only reported casualties at this time.

¶2. (U) This is a sensitive time of year for a number of reasons. Today marks India's Republic Day, and the Indian High Commission is scheduled to host a reception at the Marriot this evening.

¶3. (C) The explosion also comes during the Shi'a Muslim holy month of Muharram, which has historically been viewed by Deobandi sectarian extremist groups as a symbolically important time for carrying out attacks against Shi'a and Brailvi shrines, mosques, and processions. The month of Muharram officially began on January 21, but Shura religious processions are not scheduled to begin until January 29. Many observers have been predicting an increased level of violence during this year's Muharram holiday (reftel), and television commentators are already saying that the attack planners are trying to send a signal that they can penetrate even a high security area.

¶4. (SBU) All American Embassy and TDY personnel have been accounted for, and there are no reports of American casualties.
CROCKER